

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A refractory metal plate ~~having~~ comprising:
a thickness[[,]];
a center[[,]]; and
an edge,

~~comprising~~ wherein said refractory metal plate has a texture that is uniform texture both through said thickness and from said center to said edge, and further wherein said refractory metal plate has,

- (i) a distribution of {100} and {111} crystallographic orientations that varies by less than 30 percent across the surface of any plane of said refractory metal plate, said planes being orthogonal to the thickness of said refractory metal plate, and
- (ii) a distribution of {100} and {111} crystallographic orientations that varies by less than 30 percent across any thickness of said refractory metal plate.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The refractory metal plate ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1[[,]] ~~further comprising~~ wherein said refractory metal plate has an average grain size of less than 40 microns.

4. (Currently Amended) The refractory metal plate ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1 comprising at least 99.99% tantalum.

5. (Currently Amended) The refractory metal plate ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1 comprising at least 99.999% tantalum.

6. (Currently Amended) The refractory metal plate ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1 comprising at least 99.99% niobium.

7. (Currently Amended) The refractory metal plate ~~as defined in~~ of claim 1 comprising at least 99.999% niobium.

8 – 25. (Cancelled).